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that appellation ; coins of all the nations with which we have any commercial intercourse ; the Washington and national medals ; a great number and variety of medals from other countries ; four cabinets of minerals, one simply mineralogical, another arranged in the supposed order of geological formation, a third consisting of metallic ores and the products of their metallurgical treatment, a fourth containing rare and curious specimens ; more than a hundred articles of ancient pottery ; and various other objects of interest. In the volumes before us these collections are minutely and literally described, with perfect fac-simile impressions of a large number of coins and medals. The mechanical execution is such as to make them highly ornamental books, as well as valuable works for reference and consultation. Even the biographical appendix is not without strong claims on our interest, when we remember that David Rittenhouse and Elias Boudinot were Directors of the Mint.

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- 33.—1. *The First Book of the Constitution : a Familiar Exposition of the Constitution of the United States. Designed for the Use of Schools.* By FURMAN SHEPPARD. Philadelphia : J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1861. 12mo. pp. 202.
  2. *The Political Manual : being a Complete View of the Theory and Practice of the General and State Governments of the United States Adapted to the Use of Colleges, Academies, and Schools.* By EDWARD D. MANSFIELD, Professor of Constitutional Law. New York : A. S. Barnes and Burr. 1861. 12mo. pp. 347.

SEVERAL years ago we noticed with high praise Mr. Sheppard's "Constitutional Text-Book." The book now before us is the former work abridged and simplified to meet the demands of less advanced classes of pupils. It is admirably adapted for its design, and, we trust, will render essential aid in introducing the study of the Constitution under which we live into our grammar and high schools. It is characterized by comprehensiveness, conciseness, and precision. It embraces not only the provisions of the Constitution, but the *modus operandi* of the government as at present established, the duties of its principal functionaries, and the regular course of public affairs.

Mr. Mansfield's book is designed for a higher grade of pupils, and makes frequent references to cases involving constitutional law that have been decided in the courts. It is peculiarly explicit and full as to the mutual relations of the State governments and the general government. It bears throughout the marks of an author who has his subject wholly within his grasp. For those to whose use it is adapted, we give it our unqualified recommendation.